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ACTION: NONE

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S E C R E T STATE 302332

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MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING BRIDGETOWN 6514 DTD OCT 22 SENT ACTION STATE
WHITEHOUSE BEING REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE:

S E C R E T BRIDGETOWN 06514

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, GJ
SUBJECT: THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES
OFFICIALLY, FORMALLY RESOLVES UNANIMOUSLY TO INTERVENE
BY FORCE IF NECESSARY ON GRENADA AND PLEADS FOR U.S.
ASSISTANCE

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. I WAS ASKED BY TOM ADAMS TO COME TO HIS RESIDENCE
TONIGHT. HE SAID THAT HE AND DOMINICAN PRIME MINISTER
EUGENIA CHARLES HAD BEEN DEPUTIZED BY THE MEMBER NATIONS
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS)
TO SPEAK ON THEIR BEAHLF TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
STATES. ACCOMPANIED BY DAS GILLESPIE AND DCM FLOWER, I

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MET WITH ADAMS AND CHARLES FROM 9:00 TO 11:30 P.M. FOR THE LAST HOUR, JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER EDWIN SEAGA JOINED OUR MEETING.

3. ADAMS AND CHARLES, WHO CHAIRS THE OECS, SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF ALL OECS MEMBER STATES (MINUS GRENADA OF COURSE) TO INFORM THE U.S. OFFICIALLY THAT THE OECS HAD FORMALLY RESOLVED TO FORM A MULTINATIONAL CARIBBEAN FORCE TO UNDERTAKE TO DEPOSE THE OUTLAW REGIME ON GRENADA BY ANY MEANS, INCLUDING INTERVENTION BY FORCE OF ARMS; AND SECONDLY, TO ASK THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES FOR THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE AND MEANS TO DO THIS. IF IT IS DESIRABLE, THE OECS WOULD MAKE A REQUEST TO US IN WRITING.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRIME MINISTERS, THE CHARTER OF THE OECS PROVIDES FOR THIS EVENTUALITY. ARTICLE 8 SPELLS OUT THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MAY COLLECTIVELY AGREE TO TAKE WHATEVER MEASURES ARE NECESSARY TO DEFEND THE REGION AND PRESERVE THE PEACE. BOTH ADAMS AND CHARLES (AND LATER SEAGA) ARE CONVINCED THAT THE CHARTER PROVIDES THE LEGAL BASIS FOR SUCH AN INTERVENTION.

5. THIS DECISION IS NOT YET PUBLIC AND THEY HAVE NO IMMEDIATE INTENTION OF ANNOUNCING IT, ALTHOUGH ST. LUCIAN PRIME MINISTER JOHN COMPTON HAS BEEN QUOTED BY THE PRESS AS HAVING SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT AN ARMED INTERVENTION.

6. THE MEMBERS OF THE OECS WHICH UNANIMOUSLY SELECTED THIS COURSE ARE: ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, ST. LUCIA, DOMINICA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS AND MONTserrat. BARBADOS IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE OECS. ADAMS, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT, SAID THAT BARBADOS FULLY ASSOCIATES ITSELF WITH THE RESOLUTION AND ANY ACTION CONSEQUENCES WHICH FOLLOW.

7. CHARLES REITERATED: THE OECS HAS TAKEN THIS DECISION OFFICIALLY AND FORMALLY. IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT A TENTATIVE

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ONE TO BE LATER WITHDRAWN OR DENIED. THE OECS WILL ASK FOR HELP FROM U.K., FRENCH AND OTHERS, BUT IF THE U.S. CAN BE COUNTED ON TO PROVIDE ORGANIZATION AND MUSCLE, ACTION WOULD NOT BE DELAYED WAITING FOR LATECOMERS.

8. FOR ALL, TIMING IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN VIEW OF THE CARICOM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING NOW SET FOR 1800 HOURS, 22 OCTOBER. ADAMS IS CONCERNED THAT THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS MEETING WILL LEAK OUT INTO THE PRESS OR TO OTHER UNFRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS THROUGH THE GUYANESE (BURNHAM WILL NOT ATTEND BUT HIS REPRESENTATIVES WILL). HE BELIEVES, AND MISS CHARLES AGREES, THAT A DECISION TO ACT BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL BEFORE THE MEETING CONVENES IN TRINIDAD.

9. TOM ADAMS IS NOT OPTIMISTIC THE TRINIDADIAN WOULD JOIN AN INTERVENTION EFFORT. CHARLES SHARES HIS SKEPTICISM ABOUT PORT OF SPAIN. BOTH WOULD LIKE TO BE SURPRISED BUT ADAMS' MISGIVINGS ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO COMPEL HIM TO NOT GO TO THE CARICOM SUMMIT ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WOULD BE MORE USEFUL HERE. MORE THAN ONCE HE ALLUDED TO THE TRINIDAD VENUE FOR THE CARICOM MEETING AS SIMPLY A GESTURE TO SATISFY THAT COUNTRY'S VANITY. CLEARLY HE DOES NOT EXPECT MUCH TO COME OUT OF

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MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

THAT MEETING WHICH HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DECIDED HERE, NOW, BEFOREHAND. LATER, BOTH CHARLES AND SEAGA AGREED THAT THE PORT OF SPAIN MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE; TO CANCEL WOULD SEND A NEGATIVE SIGNAL, THAT WOULD RISK TRINIDAD'S NON-PARTICIPATION UNNECESSARILY. THEY AGREED THAT MATTERS OTHER THAN INTERVENTION SHOULD BE ON THE AGENDA. WE OBSERVED THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE, PROBABLY NONE, OF CONTROLLING DISCUSSION OF INTERVENTION. EVEN SO, MEETING'S CANCELLATION COULD RAISE DOUBT OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN SOLIDARITY. ANTAGONIZE MEMBERS, ALIENATE CHAMBERS AND BAHAMAS' PINDLING UNNECESSARILY.

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10. AT THIS POINT, BOTH PRIME MINISTERS EMPHASIZED TO US THE UNANIMITY OF THE OECS MEETING. THERE WERE, APPARENTLY, NO RESERVATIONS WHATSOEVER BY ANYONE. EXCEPT FOR DEPUTY PM LESTER BIRD OF ANTIGUA, ALL THE COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THEIR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, NOT REPRESENTATIVES OR DEPUTIES. MOST VISCERALLY OUT-SPOKEN, TO HEAR MISS CHARLES TELL IT, WAS JOHN OSBOURNE OF MONTserrat (NOT YET INDEPENDENT), FOLLOWED BY DPM LESTER BIRD OF ANTIGUA. JOHN COMPTON OF ST. LUCIA WAS A STRONG, COGENT, ANALYTICAL ADVOCATE OF INTERVENTION. THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY OECS CHAIRMAN EUGENIA CHARLES. ADAMS WAS PRESENT BUT DID NOT TAKE PART OFFICIALLY.

11. AT THE OECS THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF HOW TO MANAGE THE POST-INTERVENTION. THERE WAS TOTAL AGREEMENT THAT IF THE U.S. AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION, THE U.S. SHOULD HAND OVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE PROCESS OF GRENADA'S RESTORATION TO DEMOCRACY TO SOME ADMINISTRATION COMPOSED OF STRICTLY CARIBBEAN ELEMENTS. THE SOONER THIS HAPPENED, THE BETTER. ONE PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTED AS QUICKLY AS 48 HOURS.

12. AT THIS POINT, JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA ARRIVED. UNAWARE THAT THE OECS HAD ACTED, HE PROPOSED AN INTERIM STEP--A NAVAL BLOCKADE OF GRENADA EFFECTED BY THE U.S. AND VENEZUELA. HE BELIEVES THAT SUCH A BLOCKADE WAS CALLED FOR IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE THE CUBANS FROM AUGMENTING THEIR PERSONNEL ON THE ISLAND OR TAKING OTHER PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION. MADE AWARE THAT THE OECS HAD TAKEN A DECISION TO INTERVENE TO DEPOSE THE REGIME ON GRENADA BY FORCE IF NECESSARY, SEAGA AGREED THAT THE DISCUSSION HAD MOVED BEYOND THE QUESTION OF A BLOCKADE ALONE. THE JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF IT WAS A MULTINATIONAL MILITARY INTERVENTION OPTION THAT WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION, HE WAS PREPARED TO JOIN IMMEDIATELY AND SUBSTANTIALLY. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD SEND A COMPANY OF 120 JAMAICAN DEFENSE FORCE TROOPS TO BARBADOS FOR STAGING AND THAT HE COULD HAVE THEM HERE OCTOBER 22 IF THAT WERE CALLED FOR AND HE WAS INFORMED SOON ENOUGH (BY NOON). ADAMS HAS COMMITTED 50 ARMED BDF TROOPS; MONTserrat WOULD SEND TEN CONSTABLES. EACH OF THE OTHER

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NATIONS ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING SOME APPROPRIATE
NUMBER FOR A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 300.

13. COMMENT: THESE THREE LEADERS EXPRESSED A
PROFOUND SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE. THEY ARE COMPLETELY
COMMITTED TO DOING SOMETHING, ANYTHING TO SET THINGS
RIGHT ONCE AGAIN ON GRENADA. THEY KNOW THEY CAN NOT
DO IT ALONE. THEY HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THEIR OWN
CAPABILITIES. ONLY BARBADOS AND JAMAICA HAVE MILITARY
UNITS RESEMBLING A TRADITIONAL ARMY, BUT THEY KNOW
THAT THEY ARE UNTRAINED, ILL-EQUIPPED AND HAVE
VIRTUALLY NO EXPERIENCE WITH THE KIND OF OPERATION
THEY CONTEMPLATE. THE OTHERS HAVE ONLY THEIR DOMESTIC
POLICE FORCES WHICH, IN THE BRITISH TRADITION, DO NOT
NORMALLY BEAR ARMS. STILL, MISS CHARLES, FOR ONE,
WILL COMMIT THE SPECIAL SERVICE UNIT OF HER
CONSTABULARY POLICE FORCE. THE PROSPECT OF HELP
FROM THE U.S. (ALTHOUGH WE TOLD THEM NO REPEAT NO
U.S. DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN) SUSTAINS THE ACTIVE
SPIRIT OF THESE LEADERS. IF WE FALTER, SO WILL THEIR
EFFORT. END COMMENT. BISH UNQUOTE DAM

END OF MESSAGE

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